



## INTRODUCTION

As we read in the Gospel of John, Jesus was a gift from God, who “so loved the world.” (John 3:16)

During the season of Advent, we deepen our own sense of love for the world. Protecting creation and vulnerable people is an important way to love.

This Advent resource kit will help you to reflect on the call to preserve our common home and to live out your call through concrete actions. For more information about Catholic action on climate change and ecology, please visit us at [CatholicClimateMovement.Global](http://CatholicClimateMovement.Global)

For an online version of our creation focused advent calendar, [click here.](#)

Thank you for all you do. Your prayers and actions matter.

## CONTENTS

- ★ Print Advent calendar
- ★ Top 5 ways to green Christmas
- ★ Advent Novena
- ★ Kids' coloring pages

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>December 3</b> <b>"BE WATCHFUL! BE ALERT!" (Mk 13:33)</b>  Today take time to reflect on how you want to live Advent this year, to be watchful and alert with all of creation.	<b>4</b> <b>SPEARS INTO PRUNING HOOKS</b>  "They shall beat their...spears into pruning hooks." (Is 2:4) Today we pray for farmers around the world and those now unable to cultivate the land due to our changing climate.	<b>5</b> <b>THE WOLF WITH THE LAMB</b>  "The wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid" (Is 11:6). How might these images inspire peace and forgiveness in your life?	<b>6</b> <b>LOAVES &amp; FISHES: ABUNDANCE</b>  The Gospel of loaves and fishes reminds us we are called to share the abundance of God's love. How might you feed someone today by donating to a local charity addressing hunger?	<b>7</b> <b>GREEN YOUR ADVENT</b>  Commit to make one change this year to "green" your Christmas: try a vegetarian recipe, or seek sustainable gifts. See more ideas here: <a href="http://bit.ly/GCCN-GreenXmas17">http://bit.ly/GCCN-GreenXmas17</a>	<b>8</b> <b>SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION</b>  Like Mary, how might we set aside our personal plans for God's Love to be present? Do an unexpected kind deed today for a stranger.	<b>9</b> <b>POUNDER THE STARS</b>  "The Lord tells the number of the stars; he calls each by name." (Ps 147). Tonight look at the stars and reflect on how they and all of creation are beloved by God.
<b>10</b> <b>2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>  "Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs" (Is 40:11). God holds tenderly the animals of land, sea, and sky. Let us do the same today.	<b>11</b> <b>THIRSTY GROUND, SPRINGS OF WATER</b>  "The thirsty ground springs of water." (Is 35:7) The Earth rejoices in Jesus' birth and its water cleanses the Holy Child and Mother in the stable. Offer a prayer for life-giving water today.	<b>12</b> <b>OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE</b>  "A woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars..." (Rv 12:1) The Cosmic Christ dwells in all of Creation.	<b>13</b> <b>EAGLES' WINGS</b>  "They that hope in the LORD will soar as with eagles' wings." (Is 40:31) Offer a prayer of hope for communities impacted by natural disasters.	<b>14</b> <b>CLOUDS RAIN DOWN</b>  Let the clouds rain down the Just One, and the earth bring forth a Savior. (Is 45:8) God looked to the natural world as partner in Jesus' birth. Is my relationship with the natural world a mutually life-giving partnership?	<b>15</b> <b>TREES OF LIFE</b>  "Blessed is the one who is like a tree planted near running water (Ps 1:3)." We reflect on the importance of trees in our lives, for air, for keeping our climate balanced, for beauty. Pray today for those fighting against deforestation.	<b>16</b> <b>MAKING SPACE</b>  Advent is a time of making space for Christ's birth in our lives. Can you let go of one personal item today to reflect how you are making way for Jesus?
<b>17</b> <b>GAUDATE SUNDAY</b>  On Gaudete Sunday, we celebrate with joy the coming of Christ. Can you extend some Advent joy to someone who might be struggling at this time?	<b>18</b> <b>INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY</b>  We pray for those in migration, which Pope Francis says "recalls that of baby Jesus, who at the time of his birth could not find a place to stay when he was born in Bethlehem."	<b>19</b> <b>WAITING WITH CREATION</b>  Let us reflect on the many ways creation helps us to celebrate Advent: from Christmas trees and Advent wreaths to twinkling stars and animals carefully placed in nativity scenes.	<b>20</b> <b>THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S</b>  We praise you for teaching us that the earth and its fullness belong to you and we thank you for giving us the most urgent of tasks: to protect, heal and honor your gift of Creation.	<b>21</b> <b>THE VISITATION</b>  We rejoice with Mary, Queen of Creation! Let us experience the joy of the Cosmic Christ, in our own bodies and recognize Christ being revealed in every rock, cloud, human and gust of wind today.	<b>22</b> <b>MAGNIFICAT</b>  Join Mary in praying the Magnificat today in praising the Lord who "has filled the hungry with good things." (Luke 1:53) Watch this YouTube video: <a href="https://youtu.be/6_iJxWJo-7k">https://youtu.be/6_iJxWJo-7k</a>	<b>23</b> <b>GIFTS OF THE EARTH</b>  The gifts of the Wise Men were of the earth: gold forged within Earth's crust, frankincense from desert trees and myrrh distilled from tree sap. Help us purify our lifestyles this Christmas so that we can live justly with the gifts of Creation.
<b>24</b> <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>  "The LORD also reveals to you that he will establish a house for you." (2 Sam 7:12) We give thanks for our common home and pray that we might be a dwelling place of your love, bringing hope to every part of Creation this Christmas.	<b>25</b> <b>CHRISTMAS! LET US REJOICE!</b>  We thank and praise you Jesus for coming to heal the whole creation! May we more fully become agents of your love for "the heavens be glad, Earth rejoice, seas resound and forests exult" (Ps 96:11).	<b>26</b> <b>JOY</b>  "Laudato Si' ADVENT 2017	<p>"Blessed are all who wait for the Lord" (Ps 147). This season, we invite you to pray the Joy of Advent to include all of Creation. The Nativity story is resplendent with images of the human and natural world coming into communion to receive the birth of Jesus. We can imagine the stars illuminating the night sky, the animals keeping the Holy Family protected and warm, and the precious gifts of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh.</p> <p>For the we journey of these next 23 days, we offer reflections based on the daily Scripture readings. Pope Francis invites us to hear the cry of the Earth. We extend that invitation this season to hear the Earth rejoice in the coming of the Savior of All.</p>			



## Top 5 Ways to “Green” Your Christmas

***There is a nobility in the duty to care for creation through little daily actions. (Laudato Si', 211)***

Christmas is a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus, to cherish our friends and family, and to serve those who most need us.

It is a wonderful opportunity to focus on our call to love. **Protecting vulnerable people and all of creation can be part of the joy of Christmas.** Here are the top five ways to “green” your Christmas.

1. Consider **buying one fewer gift this year.** Instead, pledge to spend time with a special person or donate to a cause that serves the most vulnerable. Producing consumer goods at a large scale requires enormous energy and material resources. **Buying even one fewer gift is a move toward a more meaningful and sustainable lifestyle.**
2. **As the weather changes, adjust your thermostat** one degree cooler (Northern hemisphere) or warmer (Southern hemisphere) than you normally set it. Change the setting by several degrees when you are asleep or away from home. Heating and cooling buildings is the single largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in many countries. **Reducing your energy use may be the best gift you can give creation.**
3. In preparing food for Christmas celebrations, **focus on vegetarian dishes.** It's a surprising truth that tending livestock for meat production makes a significant contribution to greenhouse gas emissions. Vegetarian cuisine is native to many cultures, and **family members may enjoy encountering familiar dishes or exploring new ones.**
4. If you drive to purchase Christmas presents, **make as few car trips as possible.** Combine multiple stops into one trip, and take public transportation or walk if those options exist in your area. Fossil-fueled transportation contributes to climate change. **You'll spend less time in traffic and generate less emissions.**

When buying gifts, commit to **spending 5 to 10 minutes researching ethical and sustainable sources.** A quick Internet search may help you support a small-scale producer and protect the goodness of creation. **The story of your gift may inspire its recipient, and the gift will directly benefit the producer and his or her local environment.**

***“A constant flood of new consumer goods can baffle the heart and prevent us from cherishing each thing and each moment.” (Laudato Si', 222)***

Christmas is a wonderful reminder that God loves us. Share the love with creation by taking 1 or more of these 5 simple steps. **And, please, tell us what you've done by [emailing us!](#)** We look forward to sharing the joy with you.



## Creation Novena for Advent

### ***Day 1 (Traditionally December 16) A Prayer for All Creation***

Creator God, as we prepare for the coming of Your Son, we give thanks for the gift of creation. We give thanks for its beauty and the joy the beauty brings us. We give thanks for light that shines in the darkness, for the stars and the sun, for the air we breathe and the plants and animals that you have created, for earth and water, and for the daily sustenance we draw from them.

Inspire us to see You, Creator, through all that You have created—all that you look upon as very good. Help us to care for creation as You instructed us. Help us be stewards of its abundant life.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### ***Day 2 (Traditionally December 17) A Prayer for the Animals***

Creator God, we give thanks for the animals and for the grand diversity of life you have created. We give thanks for the roles animals play in our lives, especially as our companions. We thank You for the wellbeing they bring us and for the glory they bring to your creation.

As creation faces the wave of extinctions wrought by humankind, we ask You to strengthen us with prudence. In these days of preparation for Your Son, help us seek ways of living that allow all Your creatures to flourish.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### ***Day 3 (Traditionally December 18) A Prayer for the Plants***

Creator God, we give thanks for every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit. We thank You for all that plants provide and offer us, and for all the ways they connect us with all life on Earth.

Thank You for the sustenance—physical, emotional, and spiritual—that we draw from the plants. We give thanks for the grain, fruit, and vegetables we eat, and for the shrubs and flowers that fill our homes and parks. We give thanks for the oxygen they produce and the stability they bring to our world. And we give special thanks for the wheat and grapes that, through the work of human hands, become our offering of

bread and wine, which you lovingly return to us as the body and blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

As we see the unimaginably rapid destruction of rainforests, grasslands, and aquatic habitats, we ask that You give us courage to speak for the voiceless and to change our lifestyles. Help us encourage our neighbors and policy-makers to care for Your creation.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### ***Day 4 (Traditionally December 19) A Prayer for the Land***

Creator God, we give thanks for the land. Thank You for the confidence and comfort we feel from the earth beneath bare feet.

Thank You for the earth that sustains us, as it is the home of the plants and animals from which we draw sustenance. Thank You for the many uses of minerals in our lives—uses that shelter us, heal us, and connect us.

As we mine Your Earth beyond its capacity, as mountains are carved to nothing and rich soil turns to dust, give us a sense of measure. Help us see when we've gone far enough—when we've taken enough. As we anticipate Jesus' birth, help us find a new direction.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### ***Day 5 (Traditionally December 20) A Prayer for Water***

Creator God, we give thanks for water. We thank You for the rich depths of the seas, their unimaginable variety. We thank You for the rivers and lakes in our communities, for the sparkle of light that dances on their surface.

We thank You for all the ways that water sustains us. We give thanks for the clean water that we are blessed to drink. We give thanks for the moisture that rises from the seas to become the rain that waters our crops. We give thanks for the power of the waves that stay within their shores.

As we pollute and warm Your waters, give us foresight. Help us see the consequences of soiling Your waters and changing their ancient compositions.

Help us protect our children and grandchildren now, by taking even small steps to preserve the great gift of water.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## ***Day 6 (Traditionally December 21)***

### ***A Prayer for the Air***

Creator God, we give thanks for the air. We thank you for our enjoyment of its caress. Thank You for the soft play of wind in the treetops and the warm touch of a breeze against our faces. Thank You for the air we breathe, for the breaths we draw every moment.

As we warm the air of Your Earth, help us understand its mighty power, its ability to not only caress but to destroy. As we pollute the air of Your Earth, help us understand how essential it is to breathe itself. In this season of Advent, give us understanding, and give us the will to use our understanding well.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## ***Day 7 (Traditionally December 22)***

### ***A Prayer for the Climate***

Creator God, we give thanks for the climate. Thank You for the interplay of land, water, and heat that gives rise to the weather patterns. Thank You for the complexity and beauty of all Your systems on Earth.

Thank You for the exquisite balance that has cradled humanity. Thank You for the steady predictability of rain and heat that has for centuries allowed us to grow crops, husband livestock, and thrive.

As we wreak havoc on Your climate, especially through our insistent burning of fossil fuels, give us wisdom. Help us find our rightful place in the great fabric of Your creation.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## ***Day 8 (Traditionally December 23)***

### ***A Prayer for Vulnerable People***

Creator God, we give thanks for means to care for the poor. We give thanks for their resilience, for their strength, and for their example. We give thanks for the opportunity to know them, to serve them, and to love them.

As climate change troubles those who live and work so closely with nature, help us grow in solidarity. Help us follow the words of Proverbs, to "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute."

Help us speak truth in the presence of corruption, selfishness, and short-sightedness. Help us speak prophetically to our brothers and sisters, and to reflect on Your truths in our own lives, that we may change our habits to truly care for all Your beloved children.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## ***Day 9 (Traditionally December 24) A Prayer of Thanks for the Creator***

Creator God, we give thanks for You—for your coming among us, and among all that you have created. Thank You for the magnanimous gift of creation itself, which heralded the birth of Your Son, and to which You joined in the water, minerals, and living flesh of Jesus Christ. Thank You for every aspect of creation, as every bit of its goodness and order reveals You.

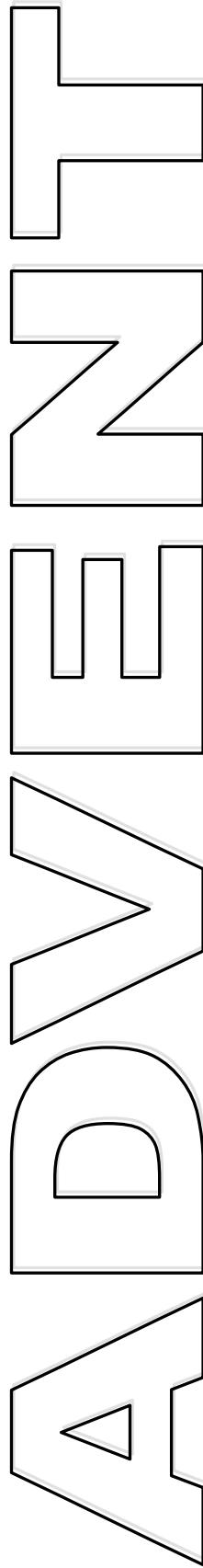
Thank You for the love that You manifest in creation. Pope Francis has said that “creation is of the order of love.” We thank You for the gift of Your love beyond measure, and we thank You for bestowing on us the gift to love in return.

Thank You for the sustenance, strength, and peace that Your creation gives us. Thank You for our place within the fabric You have woven. Thank You for the unique gifts bestowed on each of us, and especially for the gifts of resilience and beauty in our poorest sisters and brothers.

We ask that You increase our capacity to love, that You give us the resolve to love in deeds and not simply in words.

We pray this through the newborn Christ, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

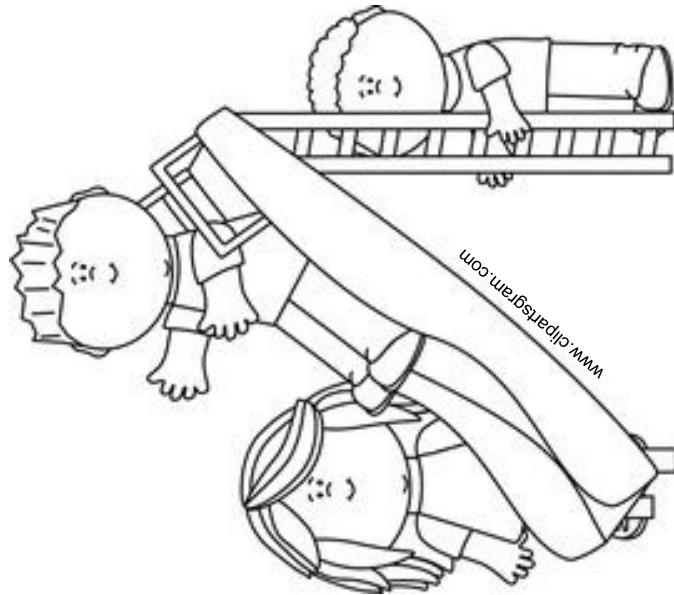
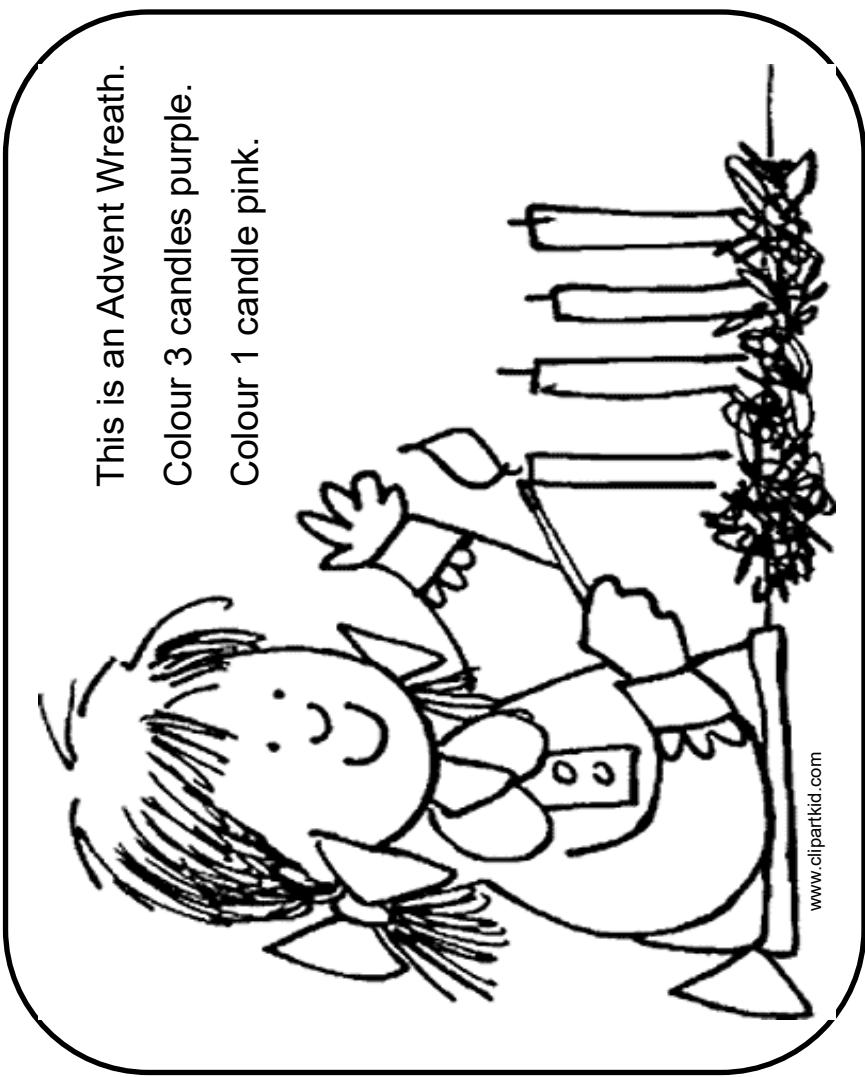
Colour the word.



Advent is when we wait for Jesus to come at Christmas. We wait, and pray, and hope.

Do you ever wait for something?

Do you like to wait?

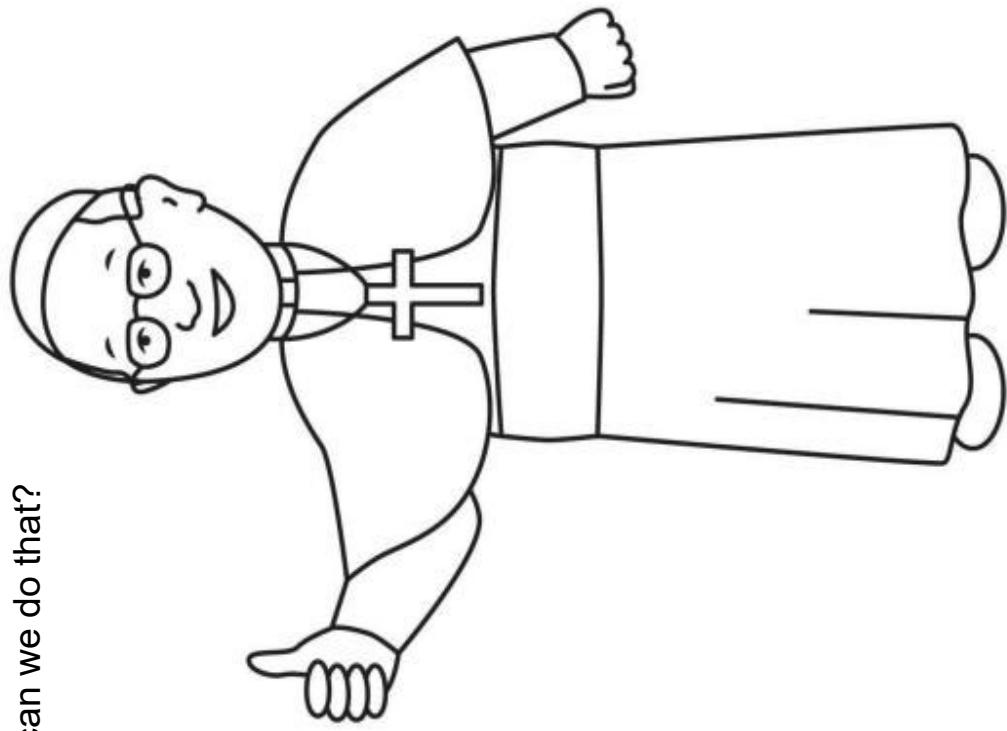


It is not always easy to wait!

This is Pope Francis. He has asked everyone on Earth to take care of our common home.

That means help our environment and the poor.

How can we do that?

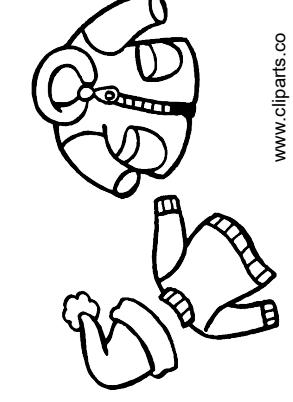


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**EVERYDAY IS  
EARTH DAY**

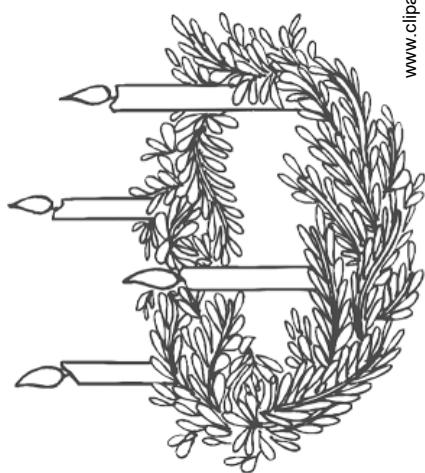


This is an Advent Calendar. It helps us get ready for Christmas. Can you do these things? Ask your family for help.

<u>1st week of Advent</u>	<u>2nd week of Advent</u>	<u>3rd week of Advent</u>	<u>4th week of Advent</u>
<p>1. Light 1 PURPLE candle on the Advent wreath.</p> <p>2. Say the Advent prayer below.</p> <p>3. Choose 1 toy that you can give to children in need.</p>  <p><a href="http://www.cliparts.co">www.cliparts.co</a></p>	<p>1. Light 2 PURPLE candles on the Advent wreath.</p> <p>2. Say the Advent prayer below.</p> <p>3. Choose 1 piece of clothing that you can give to children in need.</p>  <p><a href="http://www.cliparts.co">www.cliparts.co</a></p>	<p>1. Light 1 PINK &amp; 2 PURPLE candles on the Advent wreath.</p> <p>2. Say the Advent prayer below.</p> <p>3. Choose 1 book that you can give away. Find a "little free library" or other place to donate it.</p>  <p><a href="http://www.cliparts.co">www.cliparts.co</a></p>	<p>1. Light all 4 candles on the Advent wreath.</p> <p>2. Say the Advent prayer below.</p> <p>3. Make a card for someone you know. Tell them you love them and you want them to care for the Earth.</p>  <p><a href="http://www.cliparts.co">www.cliparts.co</a></p>

Say this Advent prayer with your family:

Dear God,  
 Your world is a wonderful and beautiful place. Teach us to love and respect it.  
 Help us learn to care for our common home.  
 As we wait for Jesus to come at Christmas, help us prepare our hearts so we can live wisely, think deeply, and love generously.  
 Amen



Dear Pope Francis,

I promise to take care of the Earth.

